

(3) If the new owner or operator is approved as a successor to a BCAP contract with CCC, then, except as otherwise determined by the Deputy Administrator:

(i) Establishment payments will be made to the past or present participant who established the practice; and

(ii) Annual payments to be paid during the fiscal year when the land was transferred will be divided between the new participant and the previous participant in the manner specified in §1450.214(c).

(b) If a participant transfers all or part of the right and interest in, or right to occupancy of, land subject to a BCAP contract and the new owner or operator does not become a successor to such contract within 60 days of such transfer, or such other time as CCC determines to be appropriate, such contract will be terminated with respect to the affected portion of such land, and the original participant:

(1) Forfeits all rights to any future payments for that acreage;

(2) Must refund all previous payments received under the contract by the participant or prior participants, plus interest, except as otherwise specified by CCC. The provisions of §1450.211(g) will apply.

(c) Federal agencies acquiring property, by foreclosure or otherwise, that contains BCAP contract acreage cannot be a party to the contract by succession. However, through an addendum to the contract, if the current operator of the property is one of the contract participants, the contract may remain in effect and, as permitted by CCC, such operator may continue to receive payments under such contract if CCC determines that such allowance is in the public interest and:

(1) The property is maintained in accordance with the terms of the contract;

(2) Such operator continues to be the operator of the property; and

(3) Ownership of the property remains with such Federal agency.

PART 1455—VOLUNTARY PUBLIC ACCESS AND HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

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AUTHORITY: 15 U.S.C. 714b and 714c; 16 U.S.C. 3839.

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§ 1455.1 Purpose and administration.

(a) The purpose of this part is to specify requirements and definitions for the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP).

(b) VPA-HIP provides, within funding limits, grants to State and tribal governments to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make that land available for access by the public for wildlife-dependent recreation, including hunting and fishing under programs administered by State and tribal governments. VPA-HIP is not an entitlement program and no grant will be made unless the application is acceptable to the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). CCC may reject a application for any reason deemed sufficient by CCC.

(c) The regulations in this part are administered under the general supervision and direction of the Executive Vice President, CCC, or a designee, or the Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs (Deputy Administrator), Farm Service Agency (FSA).

§ 1455.2 Definitions.

(a) The definitions in part 718 of this chapter apply to this part and all documents issued in accordance with this part, except as otherwise provided in this section.

(b) The following definitions apply to this part:

Appropriate wildlife habitat means habitat that is suitable or proper, as determined by the applicable State or

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tribal government, to support fish and wildlife populations in the area.

Farm land means the land that meets definition of “farmland” in § 718.2 of this title.

Forest land means land at least 120 feet wide and 1 acre in size with at least 10 percent cover (or equivalent stocking) by live trees of any size, including land that formerly had such tree cover and that will be naturally or artificially regenerated. Forest land includes transition zones, such as areas between forest and nonforest lands that have at least 10 percent cover (or equivalent stocking) with live trees and forest areas adjacent to urban and built-up lands. Roadside, streamside, and shelterbelt strips of trees must have a crown width of at least 120 feet and continuous length of at least 363 feet to qualify as forest land. Unimproved roads and trails, streams, and clearings in forest areas are classified as forest if they are less than 120 feet wide or an acre in size. Tree-covered areas in agricultural production settings, such as fruit orchards, or tree-covered areas in urban settings, such as city parks, are not considered forest land.

Privately-held land means farm, ranch, or forest land that is owned or operated by an individual or entity that is not an entity of any government unit or Tribe.

Ranch land means land that meets the definition of “farmland.”

State or State government means any State or local government, including State, city, town, or county government.

Tribal government means any Federally-recognized Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group, or community, including pueblos, rancherias, colonies and any Alaska Native Village, or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601–1629h), which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

Wildlife-dependent recreation means a land use involving hunting, fishing, wildlife-observation, photography, environmental education and interpreta-

tion, or other activities as determined by CCC.

§ 1455.10 Eligible grant applicants.

(a) A State or Tribal government may apply for a VPA–HIP grant.

(b) Any applications received by an individual or entity that is not a State or tribal government will not be considered.

§ 1455.11 Application procedure.

(a) *Request for applications (RFA)*. CCC will issue periodic RFAs for VPA–HIP on www.grants.gov, subject to available funding. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable RFA, applicants must file an original and one hard copy of the required forms and an application.

(b) *Single application*. A State or tribal government must include all proposed activity under a single application per RFA review period. Multiple applications from an applicant during a single RFA period will not be considered. The applicant is the individual State or Tribe; any application from any unit of the State or tribal government must be coordinated for a single submission of one application from the State or Tribe.

(c) *Incomplete applications*. Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding. However, incomplete applications may be returned, and may be resubmitted, if time permits.

(d) *Providing data*. Data furnished by grant applicants will be used to determine eligibility for the VPA–HIP benefits. Furnishing the data is voluntary; however, the failure to provide data could result in program benefits being withheld or denied.

(e) *Required forms*. The following forms must be completed, signed, and submitted as part of the application; other forms may be required, as specified in the applicable RFA:

(1) Application for Federal Assistance;

(2) Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs; and

(3) Assurances—Non-Construction Programs.

(f) *Application*. Each application must contain the following elements; additional required elements may be specified in the applicable RFA: